

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph in column 5 beginning at line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

The defined current or circulation pattern produced by this embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1, is such that oxygenation gas forces the fluid within the aeration chamber to move upwards in direction 100 from the diffuser until it reaches the surface of the liquid within the chamber. This forces a current which travels around the conical partition in both directions, as indicated by the numbers 102 and 104. As these currents meet on the opposite side of the partition, the intersection of the outer currents causes a downwardly flowing current 106 which flows to the bottom of the aeration chamber which creates main currents 108, 110, and 112 that sweep across the bottom in all directions. The water sweeping generally in a straight line across the bottom of the vessel in direction 108 moves with the greatest speed and serves to move any solid falling out of the clarifier chamber back into circulation in the aeration chamber, thus preventing any accumulation of solids in the bottom of the aeration chamber. The water moving generally around the outer perimeter of the vessel in directions 110 and 112 moves at a slower speed but with enough speed to scour the edges of the vessel and to sweep the solids into circulation. All areas of the bottom of the vessel are forced into circulation. Those areas intermediate between the path straight across the bottom of the vessel and the path around the outer perimeter travel [at] respectively intermediate speeds. While FIG. 1 shows the entire circulation pattern, FIG. 5-7 show different views of parts of this pattern. As depicted in Figs. 1 and 6, the injection system generates an area of aerating bubbles adjacent the intersection of the side wall and the bottom wall that induces the current flow shown in Figs. 1 and 6. Thus, assuming that direction 100 in Fig. 1 depicts the current flow of the wastewater induced

at an injection area adjacent the intersection of the side wall and the bottom wall of the aeration chamber, a branched current having runs indicated by 102 and 104 is produced. Accordingly, if multiple diffusers are used, they must be positioned in sufficient proximity to one another such that the current or circulation pattern depicted in Fig. 5 is achieved.

Please replace the paragraph in column 6 beginning at line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

When a diffuser plugs up or for whatever reason a drop line needs to be removed for repair or replacement, the drop line is [discovered] disconnected from the external oxygenation gas source, such as an air compressor, and simply pulled out of the rigid conduit in which it is located and out of the tank through opening 14. The new or repaired hose and diffuser can then be threaded back through the rigid conduit and reconnected to the air compressor.